

## 11th Grade Summer Reading

The Nicotra Early College Charter School English Department has decided to offer students an opportunity to engage in a Summer Reading Program. This summer, students will select one book from the list below, read the book, and then complete the attached assignment below that demonstrates what they took away from their chosen text. This assignment will be collected in September and graded for credit toward your 2022-2023 ELA class.

### 11th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

The list that follows is designed to offer students a broad range of reading experiences that represent a variety of genres and cover topics of current interest to high school students. With this approach, we hope to see all students find a book that they can be excited to read as they enjoy the leisure time that summer provides.

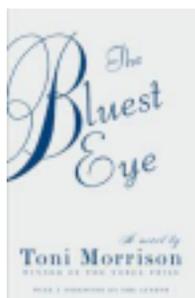
The attached book list has Amazon links included for each entry for easy purchase. However, I have included a link to sign up for a NYC Public library card if you do not already own one, to expand your options! [NYPL Card Application](#)

For any questions, concerns or if you need any advisement please contact me, [Susan Ryan](#) at any time.

Wishing everyone a very safe, healthy and fun filled summer and we look forward to discussing your summer reading selections in September!

**\*Disclaimer for Parents/Guardians:** The following books vary in terms of content, message, language, and maturity level. Please guide your student in selecting a book that you feel is both beneficial and appropriate. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to find a book that fits these criteria, please email me and I will be happy to help you find an alternative solution.

**Students entering 11<sup>th</sup> Grade may select from the following list of books:**



***The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison**

**Genre: Fiction, African American Literature**

Pecola Breedlove longs for blond hair and blue eyes, so that she will be as beautiful and beloved as all the blond, blue-eyed children in America. In the autumn of 1941, the marigolds in her garden will not bloom, and her wish will not come true. Pecola's life is about to change in other painful and devastating ways. A powerful interrogation of what it means to conform to an idea of beauty, *The Bluest Eye* asks vital questions about race, class and gender and remains one of Toni Morrison's most unforgettable works.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/39BIWhf>

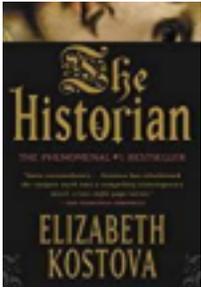


***The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon**

**Genre: Contemporary Fiction**

It is Natasha's last day in New York City, where she has lived for 10 years. Her family, living as undocumented immigrants in a small Brooklyn apartment are being deported to Jamaica after her father's arrest for drunk driving. Natasha is scouring the city for a chance to stay in the United States legally. She wants the normal teen existence of her peers. Meanwhile, poetic Daniel is on his way to an interview as part of his application process to Yale. He is under great pressure to get in because his parents (who emigrated from South Korea) are adamant that he become a doctor. Events slowly conspire to bring the two leads together. When Daniel and Natasha finally meet, he falls in love immediately and convinces her to join him for the day. -- **2016 National Book Award Finalist**

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3ngOpFu>

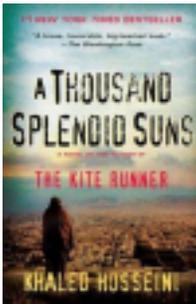


**The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova**

**Genre: Historical Fiction, Fantasy**

Dracula--Vlad the Impaler! When a teenage girl discovers a medieval book in her diplomat father's library, he reluctantly confesses an unsettling story: his involvement, 20 years earlier, in a search for his mentor, who disappeared from his office only moments after confiding his certainty that Dracula--Vlad the Impaler--was still alive.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3ep9Fwq>



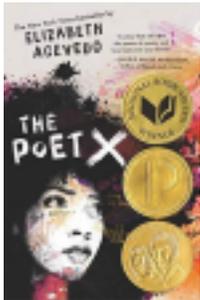
**A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini**

**Genre: Fiction, Historical Fiction**

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them—in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul—they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.

A stunning accomplishment, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a haunting, heartbreaking, compelling story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/2QiwSB>

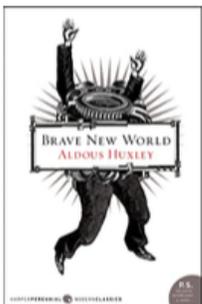


**The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo**

**Genre: Contemporary Fiction, Poetry**

Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3epFKU>

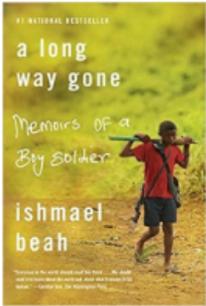


**A Brave New World by Aldous Huxley**

**Genre: Dystopian**

Huxley's profoundly important classic of world literature, *Brave New World* is a searching vision of an unequal, technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order—all at the cost of our freedom, full humanity, and perhaps also our souls.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3sjVssp>



***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah**

**Genre: Memoir**

The devastating story of war through the eyes of a child soldier. Beah tells how, at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and became a soldier. This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3gA2d44>

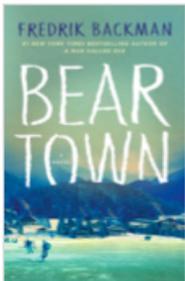


***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**

**Genre: Classics**

*Pride and Prejudice* is a comedy of manners centered around the Bennet family, a family of five daughters where the parents are desperate for at least one of them to make a wealthy match and save the next generation from destitution. Austen's story engages with the tension between marrying for love, rather than wealth or social prestige, and the pressure to assure financial security. Originally published in 1813, *Pride and Prejudice* is one of the best-loved and best-selling novels in English literature of all time.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3xmr3KI>



***Beartown* by Fredrik Backman**

**Genre: Psychological Fiction, Sports Fiction**

Beartown's junior ice-hockey team is competing in the national semifinals when a violent act leaves a young girl traumatized and the town in turmoil. BEARTOWN explores the hopes that bring a small community together, the secrets that tear it apart, and the courage it takes for an individual to go against the grain.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3sjD56W>



***Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan**

**Genre: Contemporary Fiction**

One cold night, in a most unlikely corner of Chicago, Will Grayson crosses paths with . . . Will Grayson. Two teens with the same name, running in two very different circles, suddenly find

their lives going in new and unexpected directions, and culminating in epic turns-of-heart and the most fabulous musical ever to grace the high school stage. Told in alternating voices from two YA superstars, this collaborative novel features a double helping of the heart and humor that have won them both legions of fans.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/37kTaBS>

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